Conversion of sugarcane juice into power alcohol

1758. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Sugar Institute Kanpur had perfected technology for direct conversion of sugarcane juice into power alcohol and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the said technology was being tested at M/s. Shakti Sugar, Tamil Nadu, and if so, with what results;

(c) whether this technology is now being used at several production centres; and

(d) whether this technology is benefiting farmers and providing value added return on raw farm produce?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) So far only research studies on production of power alcohol from sugarcane have been conducted.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Cost benefit studies are in progress.

Use of Tapioca for production of power Alcohol

1759. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a process has been developed for using tapioca for production of power alcohol by CTCRI (ICAR) Trivandrum several years ago, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this process has been found of commercial application in industry and for use as car fuel and if so, the detail thereof: and

(c) whether this process has helped the farmers by providing value added revenue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir. The process involves fermentation of tapioca flour and production of ethanol. The technology has been patented for production of 420 litres of alcohol from 1000 kg of dried tapioca flour. The alcohol so produced could be concentrted or diluted to obtain power/industrial/potable alcohol.

(b) Mixing of such alcohol from tapioca, to the extent of 20 per cent with petrol, has been found to be feasible for running vehicles and the ICAR has secured a patent for this process. The National Research Development Corporation has been approached for further commercial exploitation.

(c) Since the commercial utilisation of the process developed has not started, the question of value added revenue to farmers does not arise.

Import of Coal

1760. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to import coal;

(b) if so, which variety of coal is to be imported and at which ports it is proposed to be imported;

(c) whether it will be allowed to be imported by actual users or it will be through any canalising agency, if so, which is the canalising agency and under what provisions it will import coal;

(d) which are the countries broadly identified for import of coal;

(e) what quantity of coal is estimated to be imported; and

(f) what is the foreign exchange allocation made for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) To cover the shortfall in their requirements an indigenous

availability and also to improve blast furnace productivity. the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. (TISCO) have been importing low ash metallurgical coking coal of prime grade variety. The ports of import are Visakhapatnam, Haldea. Paradeep and Madras.

(c) Under the existing import policy, the import of low ash metallurgical coal is allowed under open general licence to the actual users.

(d) to (f) The imports are mostly effected on the basis of global tenders. In recent years the imports have taken place from Australia, Poland and Soviet Union. In the current year the steel plants are expected to import around 4 million tonnes of coking coal. No specific allocation of foreign exchange is made for this import as this item is placed under open general licence.

Inauguration of doordarshans microwave link between Trivandrum and Calicut

1761. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Kerala was not invited sufficiently in advance for the inauguration of Doordarshan's microwave link between Trivandrum and Calicut; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No. Sir. The letter of invitation was sent to the Chief Minister, Kerala immediately after the date for inauguration of the link was fixed.

(b) Does not arise.

National Housing Policy

1762. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 363 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th November, 1988 and state:

(a) what are the details of the National Housing Policy to provide shelter for all by the year 2000 AD both in rural and urban areas; and

(b) whether under this scheme any satelite city would be included for Madras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The National Housing Policy which was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 12th May, 1988 has been debated in the Sabha on 22nd November, 1988 A Note on the details in enclosed.

(b) The Policy decument has not made any specific mention that a satellite city would be created in Madras or other large cities.

Nalco proposal for expansion of its aluminium smelters at Angul, Orissa

1763. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NALCO has applied for expansion of its aluminium smelters at Angul, Orissa;

(b) if so, action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) what is the total production of Aluminium in the country per annum and the total demand within the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) The Naional Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has proposed to expand their existing facilities for which a Feasibility Study is to be commissioned.

(c) During 1988-89, the production of aluminium is expected to be 3.6 lakh tonnes which is likely to match with the level of demand for the metal.